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News Release

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Leader in Duluth-based crack cocaine ring is sentenced

Earlier today the leader of a Duluth-based crack cocaine distribution ring was sentenced to 78 months in federal prison. Appearing before United States District Court Judge Richard H. Kyle in Duluth, William Andre Dotson, age 41, of Duluth, was sentenced to 78 months in prison on one count of conspiracy to distribute in excess of 50 grams of cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine. Dotson was indicted on August 11, 2009, along with four co-defendants. He pleaded guilty on October 14, 2009.

According to court documents, this distribution ring operated in and around Duluth from May of 2008 to June of 2009. During that time, Dotson conspired with others to distribute 250 grams of crack cocaine. On May 11, 2009, specifically, Duluth police seized 210 grams of crack cocaine from Dotson during a traffic stop. Dotson was immediately arrested. Dotson's co-defendants have pleaded guilty for their roles in the operation, but their sentencing dates have not been scheduled.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Duluth Police Department; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christian S. Wilton.